

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 13th May 1876.

IN a very lengthy article, headed the "Use of insulting language to parties in a law suit," the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 3rd May, observes that this practice is not only unlawful, but also inconsistent with that polite behaviour which is known to characterise our rulers. It is a matter of very great regret that officers should use such language in open court, and to persons who do not at all deserve it, and even heartily hate it.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
May 3rd, 1876.

2. The same paper writes in another article that a good and impartial administration of justice cannot be expected from Government officials who are possessed only of common sense, not polished by a liberal education or a wide experience. Most of the Subordinate Judges are of this class. An inquiry into their former career would show that they occupied very low situations, and only through favor, or having passed their examinations under the former system, have gradually attained their present position. Some of them have a very scanty knowledge of English, while others have no acquaintance with it at all. The latter have recourse, no doubt, to the Bengali translation of the laws; but both experience the same difficulty in understanding their meaning. Hence, it is not strange that their decisions are sometimes found to be so much at variance with the exact sense of the law. Again, persons, not at all acquainted with the duties of the civil court, are sometimes entrusted with its powers; and, consequently, it is needless to say that the administration of justice is found to be weak and injurious to the people.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

3. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 4th May, writes in one of its editorial paragraphs that the competition of Manchester has indeed roused us from our sleep. We are now able to see the amount of injury done to this country by the introduction of foreign piece-goods. The native weavers groan under miseries brought about by this competition. We are now obliged to look up to a foreign country for our cloth. Cotton, which used to be formerly grown on an extensive scale in Bengal, fetches but a low price at the present time owing to the same reason, and hence its cultivation has been of late neglected. So that, for want of a proper supply of cotton, we could not obtain country-made cloth, even if we wanted it for our own use.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 4th, 1876.

4. We extract the following from an article in the same paper, on the guiding principles of the British administration:—No sensible person can deny that, compared with the Mahomedan administration, we are considerably happier under the British rule. Under the Mahomedans the country was perpetually harassed by their oppressions and misrule. The will of the sovereign was law, and about half of the revenues were expended on the pleasures of the females in the Emperor's zenana. There were then no

BHARAT MIHIR.

easy means of communication as now, nor was the system of public instruction so good. There was then nothing of the commerce, the bazars, the fashions, and the reformatations of the present day. But the happiness we now enjoy is not entirely free from anxiety or regret; and even this rose is not without a worm. The Mahomedans, indeed, oppressed us; but do not the British do the same? They do; but theirs is an enlightened method of oppression. For an instance of this, we would cite the case of Baroda. If the affair connected with that State had occurred in the days of the Mahomedans, the Chief would in all likelihood have been beheaded without any delay. The British are, however, a civilized people, and their justice is administered in an enlightened way. And so a Commission was appointed, and there was a formal trial. The readers, of course, know the sequel—how their object was secured. While the oppressions of the Mahomedans were guided by the conceit of individuals, those under the British rule are due to the system of administration. The former did not know how to mask their wrongdoings, and hence their unequalled notoriety. What they did, they did publicly; if there was need of any weapon, the sharp sword was at once employed. The British, however, harass us by their quiet way of inflicting grievances, and instead of the sword prick us with sharp needles. Besides this, there are two other guiding principles of the British administration, viz. self-seeking and distrust. The first is pre-eminently the moving principle of the British Government; as to the second, no confidence is reposed in us. Where the semi-civilized followers of Mahomed could trust, the enlightened and liberal British nation are found hesitating. But what have we done to warrant such distrust? Have we not removed from ourselves the stain of the Sepoy Revolt with the heart's blood of hundreds of native heroes? A sovereign's strength and hopes lie in his subjects; and if they are to be distrusted, who can be objects of confidence? Whatever faults the natives of India may be guilty of, they are never disloyal. The British, however, seek to evoke our loyalty by the use of force and stratagem; but is such a thing ever successful? Let them but trust us, and we shall respect them with all our hearts.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 4th, 1876.

5. Adverting to the Minute of the Lieutenant-Governor on the scholarships for females, the same paper remarks that, though it seems to be a very common impression that Sir Richard Temple has a signal power of charming the people by his splendid, but not always practical, Minutes, still we for our part believe that he possesses a truly liberal heart, which feels for all. We thank him for his efforts in the cause of female education. The country will be greatly benefited if his proposal be carried out in practice.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1876.

6. In the course of an editorial on the effects of the Prince's visit, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 4th May, makes the following observations:—It is remarked by the *Pall Mall Gazette* that the Prince's visit to India has filled the hearts of the natives with loyal feeling. The inhabitants of Manchester also said the same thing to Lord Lytton. Would to God the British believed this in all sincerity; but they do not. If they had such a conviction in their minds, the stringent Bill relating to dramatic performances would never have been proposed, nor would such measures as the Indian Legislation Bill and the Presidency Magistrates' Bill have been sought to be passed into law. So that, if the visit has called forth our loyalty, we derive really no benefit from it. Government has not become more generous towards us in consideration of this virtue, nor has the distrust with which we have been regarded been lessened by it. Far from relaxing the rigor of their administration, it has been made more stringent than ever.

The assumption by the Queen of the title of "Empress of India" is another consequence of the Royal visit. God only knows whether India will be benefited or injured by it. But since the intelligence of Her Majesty's determination to assume this new title reached us our hearts have become uneasy. We would not have regarded it in so serious a light had not Mr. Disraeli assured the British public that the people of India were anxious to see Her Majesty assume the title. We would not have been uneasy had not Mr. Disraeli told the Commons that the matter was solely determined by the desire of the Queen to gratify the people of India, who had shown such regard and loyalty to the Prince of Wales. There would have been no matter for anxiety if the British public had not become so uneasy on this account. Nor would the matter affect us at all had not Mr. Disraeli pointed out a connection between the assumption of the title and the advance of the Russians towards India. The statement about the anxiety of the people of India to see their sovereign an "Empress" is entirely false. If any benefit were likely to accrue from it, there would have been no necessity for Mr. Disraeli to resort to so many tricks. He would make the people believe that the measure was only intended as a reward for service rendered, but he did not say what happy or beneficial results would follow. Our rulers will no doubt pardon us if we compare the new title of Her Majesty with the minor titles that obtain in this country, and say that the people have long since lost all faith in titles. They are but inflictions on a people who are crying for bread. A people who tremble with fear at the name of the Queen will very probably die of fear at the name of the "Empress." We do not know whether the change will be beneficial or otherwise to India. We, however, regard it with suspicion, which it behoved Mr. Disraeli to remove, if the assumption of the title was determined on only from a love to the people of India. We dread the British more when they are in a quiet mood than when their frowns are visible. Against the latter we can provide, the other takes us at unawares. Mr. Disraeli is now in this quiet mood. In one respect, however, good has been done. India is now a common topic of discussion in England, and the leading English papers are now all fighting for her good.

7. In an article on native newspapers, the *Education Gazette*, of the 5th May, remarks that it seems to be the general conviction that these papers have grown to be very unscrupulous and wild in their expressions. Some of our rulers appear to be displeased with them, some seem to be pleased, while others are indifferent. But, indeed, the present is the most critical time as it regards these papers: even the attention of England has been drawn to them. But is this fact at all ominous? Perhaps, at this time, their freedom of expression may be enhanced. It does not seem to be possible that a man belonging to the same nation as Sir C. Metcalfe, by whom this liberty or power was first conferred on them, should strike any blow to its detriment. Our English rulers would not speak of gagging the press, unless there were an abuse of the received liberty. Lord Lytton, who is a well-known scholar, is also a great patron of literature; and hence it is to be expected that from his hands this liberty will meet with encouragement rather than hostility. Moreover, all the papers should not be made answerable for the faults of a few of them; and the faults of these few have most probably arisen from an over-weening desire to mimic the English press.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 5th, 1876.

8. In another article, the same paper observes that, on the subject of female scholarships, the proposition of Mr. Woodrow is no doubt very good. He proposes to award scholarships as the result of examination. But no

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

important consequences can be expected from the means which he suggests for raising money for these scholarships. He has asked a grant from the Government for the females of Calcutta only ; but for those of other places, he proposes that scholarships should be awarded from the funds allotted for the boys. This will be highly injurious to the latter. We believe that Mr. Woodrow has been obliged to make this proposition on account of scarcity of money in the hands of the Government ; but he will no doubt apply for the amount as soon as this scarcity ceases to exist.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 5th, 1876.

9. Adverting to the subject of contagious diseases, the same paper writes that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is deserving of all praise for the assiduity and interest he has shewn to check their prevalence. It is, however, extremely desirable not to let the people suffer from the rash interference of the police, who, we hear, have unjustly arrested and sent up to the criminal court some married women for registration, taking them for regular prostitutes.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

10. In a very lengthy article on the enhancement of rent, the same paper remarks that the rules laid down for the guidance of landlords and tenants, though apparently clear, are not so in practice. It is not easy to ascertain the rates at which neighbouring ryots of the same position, holding the same kind of land, pay their rents : it is particularly difficult to determine the productive power of the land and the increase of the price of its produce, and to what extent that has been brought about by the labor and expense of the tenants. Even if that be in any way ascertained, it is not always easy to determine what portion of that increase is due to the zemindar. It is true, indeed, that the High Court has decided that the rent shall be enhanced in proportion to the rise in the value of the produce, yet this decision has created nothing but confusion. How much the land produced formerly, and what the price of its produce was, cannot easily be ascertained. Moreover, the land may have undergone several changes by adopting different modes of cultivation, and various crops, of various kinds, may now be produced which it did not yield in former times. Even the standard of measurement is not the same in all places, and confusion may arise from this fact also ; but though the measurement and the rates of rent were ascertained, it is next to impossible to determine the productive power and the price of the produce of the land ; and yet that is the principal cause of dispute between the zemindar and the ryots.

PRATIKAR,
May 5th, 1876.

11. The *Pratikár*, of the 5th May, has the following in one of its editorial paragraphs :—India's prosperity has gone ; her learning also is about to disappear. Some self-willed Englishmen have created a mighty convulsion in the Education Department. We hear that Mr. Ravenshaw, the Commissioner of Orissa, is doing as it pleases him, and the lifeless Uriyas are looking on in blank despair. One Mr. Ager has been appointed principal of the local college. We may, however, be allowed to ask whether this principal had finished his education in any of the English Universities before he got the appointment. The petty Nawab of Orissa (Mr. Ravenshaw) should have considered that however competent an Englishman may be to hate us, trample us under foot, and suck, as it were, our life-blood, it is not every one who is fit to be appointed to a professor's chair.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
May 5th, 1876.

12. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 5th May, writes an article in defence of the second Moonsiff of Berhampore, who, it seems, has been taken to task for certain irregularities in his court by a local newspaper, the *Pratikár*. [The paper containing these charges has not reached us.]

13. Adverting to that portion of Lord Lytton's speech, in which His Excellency dwelt on the desirability of effecting a reduction of expenditure, the *Grámbártá Prakashiká*, of the 6th May, makes the following remarks :— Not an insignificant sum is yearly expended in connection with the sojourn of the authorities on the hills, and it is striking to note that Lord Lytton, who promised a reduction of expenditure, has himself gone thither. We do not see how reduction can be thus effected. The object can never be attained by simply abolishing the posts of a few clerks or peons. Attention should be directed to those who are in receipt of high salaries; otherwise proposals of reduction will for ever remain on paper, and never be put into practice.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
May 6th, 1876.

14. The same paper observes, in reference to the numerous beneficial measures set on foot by Sir Richard Temple, that it is to be feared they will not be completed during his term of office. This, indeed, would be deeply regretted by the people of Bengal, who should endeavour to secure the services of Sir Richard Temple as their Governor for one or two years longer than the prescribed term; at any rate, arrangements should be made for the efficient maintenance of the institutions established by him in the event of his retirement.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

15. The municipal institutions, says the same paper, are doubtless introduced by Government for the good of the people; but this object is rarely attained, owing to the utter disregard by the local authorities of the opinions of the rate-payers. Abuses of municipal administration are constantly exposed in the native papers, but there is no redress. We hoped much from the new Municipal Bill, but it has sadly disappointed us.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

16. The same paper writes the following in a lengthy editorial headed "The Mofussil and Sir Richard Temple":—Scarcely a week passes without the *Gazette* announcing some noble and beneficial proposal made by the Lieutenant-Governor; but a consideration of the state of the villages in the mofussil, and their inhabitants, leads one to the conclusion that His Honor has either made no enquiries into their condition, or is profoundly ignorant of it. Steeped in ignorance, and the constant prey of intrigues as the simple villagers are, the probabilities are strong that the higher authorities do not know their true condition. While seeking redress at the hands of the local authorities against oppressions, they are put to the greatest inconvenience by their inability to adduce substantial proofs, and it is next to impossible that they should apply to the higher officials for justice: hence it is that those who are high in office know but little of the true condition of the people inhabiting the villages in the interior. All the information His Honor can obtain is derived only from the reports, which but rarely present the real state of any case. For various reasons, the newspapers in the mofussil also have not generally the courage to furnish a true picture of the mofussil. Nor are they generally noticed by Government. When special enquiries are made, they are made through the local authorities, pre-eminently the police constable. Whatever Government may do to benefit the people, oppressions will continue to exist so long as "secret spies" are not appointed all over the country to watch and report on the condition of the people and affairs of the mofussil.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

17. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Dáhpárá, complains of the wretched state of the roads and drains of that place, notwithstanding the fact that it forms a part of a municipal corporation. Taxes are regularly and unmercifully collected from the people, but no adequate benefits are received.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
May 6th, 1876.

18. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 6th May, directs the attention of the authorities to the fearful prevalence of gambling in the district of Dacca. Numbers of ignorant and simple people are ruined by it, while the police are unable to detect the offenders, who now practise their trade in villages, and on board the passenger boats plying for hire between Taltala, Fatallah, Dhamrye, Manikgunge, and other places.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

19. The same paper writes the following:—Sir Richard Temple is evincing an intelligent interest in seeking the progress of this country. This was not desired by Sir George Campbell. He did not like to see natives enjoying the advantages of education. Though a foreigner, and quite ignorant of the habits of the people, he still meddled with our language, and even religion. Fortunately the accession of Sir Richard Temple to the office of Lieutenant-Governor has given us rest; and His Honor has made himself very popular with all classes.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 7th, 1876.

20. Adverting to the scholarships for females, provided for in the Lieutenant-Governor's Minute on the subject, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 7th May, remarks that though this noble act of Sir Richard Temple is likely to prove beneficial to the cause of female education, there is, among others, one obstacle which stands prominent in the way of its development. This is nothing less than the early marriage of the girls. Scholarships are but incentives to further study, and are of no effect when the recipient will not continue to prosecute her studies. It is certain, though much to be regretted, that in the case of native girls, who are strictly confined to their zenanas after their marriage, scholarships will be fruitless. The arrangement might be utilized if, simultaneously with its introduction, other means could be devised, making it possible for the married girls to continue their studies.

HOWRAH HITAKRI,
May 7th, 1876.

21. In reference to the fearful prevalence of malarious fever in pergunnah Chandrakoná in the district of Midnapore, a correspondent of the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 7th May, asks Government to sanction the continued existence of the two dispensaries, which have done an immense deal of good to the afflicted inhabitants.

SADHARANI,
May 7th, 1876.

22. We extract the following from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 7th May, on the Road Cess:—The scheme of decentralization of the finances of the Indian Empire has been extremely injurious to Bengal. Had the measure been completely carried out in all its bearings, it would not have been so undesirable. As it is, a large portion of the Imperial revenue is derived from Bengal, while she has to bear her own expenses. Her opium revenue goes to the Imperial Exchequer, while her people are taxed to pay for such roads or canals as they may need. And this road cess is objectionable not only from the measures used to wring out money from the slender resources of the poor ryots, but also from the rottenness of that financial policy which renders its existence possible.

SAHACHAR,
May 8th, 1876.

23. The *Sahachar*, of the 8th May, dwells on the miseries of the people in the mofussil, now when diseases are raging fearfully on all sides, and the heat is intolerable. All the tanks are dried up, and there is no rain. Government is earnestly besought to cause the excavation of canals on a large scale, and send medical aid without delay to afflicted localities.

SOMA PRAKASH,
May 8th, 1876.

24. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 8th May, makes the following observations in the course of an editorial on the necessity of a permanent settlement with the ryots:—The recent Minute of the Lieutenant-Governor on the substantive rent law contains views which we have advocated for a long time past. There is no other way out of the difficulty except the introduction of

a permanent settlement with the tenants themselves; and this scheme must commend itself to the approbation of every man who really desires to see an end of agrarian disputes. We have, however, only this remark to make, that Sir Richard's scheme is at best but a half measure. It will then only be complete when, without any reference to the right of occupancy on the part of the tenants, a permanent settlement is made with them. But we confess that, under the circumstances, Sir Richard's scheme is the best that could be devised. A sweeping change would bring about a mighty agitation. The zemindars would be extremely dissatisfied, and nothing short of a convulsion would ensue. If any permanent settlement, of whatever kind, were made with the ryots, their landlords would be vexed. Signs of dissatisfaction are already perceptible in that quarter owing to the scheme proposed by His Honor.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 13th May 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
13th May 1876*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	13th April 1876.
2	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	2nd May 1876.
3	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
4	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
5	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
7	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
8	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
9	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
12	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
13	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
14	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
15	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
17	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	5th to 11th May 1876.
18	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	6th to 12th May 1876.
19	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	6th May 1876.
20	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	3rd and 10th May 1876.
21	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	12th May 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

